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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: REPORTS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 14 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

As you know, the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices was held in Geneva from 13 to 21 November 1995 under the chairmanship of the representative of Venezuela. The Conference adopted a resolution by which it, inter alia, recommended that the General Assembly should change the title of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to that of Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy. To this effect, the delegation of Venezuela, in March 1996, submitted to the Secretary-General a corresponding draft resolution for possible consideration by the General Assembly (see A/50/905 and A/50/L.71).

At the request of some Member States, no action was finally taken last spring on the indicated draft resolution, in order to allow time for additional consultations in Geneva on some aspects of the issue. In November 1996, we received a new communication from the President of the Trade and Development Board (annex I) indicating that consensus had been reached on language to amend the draft resolution. Unfortunately, by the time the letter arrived, it was too late to reintroduce the revised draft under the corresponding item, Trade and development, in the proceedings of the Second Committee.

In view of the foregoing, it is my honour at this time to request that the discussion of sub-item (c) of agenda item 94, Macroeconomic policy questions, be reopened during one of the forthcoming plenary meetings of the resumed fifty-first session of the Assembly, in order to consider the revised draft resolution

annexed hereto (annex II), which enjoys the consensus of the member States of the Trade and Development Board. I should also be grateful if you would kindly have the present letter and its annexes distributed beforehand, as documents of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Ramón ESCOVAR-SALOM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Letter dated 13 November 1996 from the President of the Trade and Development Board addressed to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Venezuela

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 7 August 1996 addressed to my predecessor, H.E. Ambassador William Rossier, President of the forty-second session of the Trade and Development Board.

I thank you also for having transmitted to us a copy of the note from the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, in Ireland's capacity as President of the European Union, by which it forwarded a proposal to amend the draft resolution submitted by Venezuela to the General Assembly on the "Follow-up action by the General Assembly on the resolution adopted on 21 November 1995 by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Restrictive Business Practices".

I am pleased to inform you that the intensive inter-Group consultations on this very important issue have now been completed and agreement has been reached among coordinators and delegations to propose to you the following amendments to the proposed draft resolution A/50/L.71:

1. A new fourth preambular paragraph:

Recalling in addition "A Partnership for Group and Development", adopted on 11 May 1996 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session in Midrand, South Africa.

2. An additional operative paragraph 3:

3. Requests the Trade and Development Board to provide for meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy operating within the framework of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in accordance with paragraph 110 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".

I wish further to inform you that the above amendments to the draft resolution were agreed subject to the need for further consultations in Geneva to consider the differing views of the regional groups on the relationship between meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy and the Expert Meetings convened by commissions in accordance with paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development" (TD/377, 24 May 1996).

I am consequently in a position to request, on behalf of the membership of the Trade and Development Board, that the draft resolution, as amended above, be submitted for adoption at the current session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Patrick SINYINZA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Zambia,
President of the Trade and
Development Board

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

Follow-up action by the General Assembly on the resolution adopted on 21 November 1995 by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980, whereby it adopted the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices, including paragraph 1, section G, thereof, providing that an Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices operating within the framework of a committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development would provide the institutional machinery,

Recalling in particular paragraph 3 of that resolution, whereby it requested the Trade and Development Board, at its twenty-second session, to establish an intergovernmental group of experts on restrictive business practices, operating within the framework of a committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to perform the functions designated in section G of the Set of Principles and Rules,

Recalling further its decision 48/442 of 21 December 1993, convening the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices,

Recalling in addition "A Partnership for Growth and Development", adopted on 11 May 1996 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session, held in Midrand, South Africa,[a]

1. Takes note of the resolution adopted on 21 November 1995 by the Third United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices;[b]

2. Endorses the recommendation contained in paragraph 14 of that resolution to change the title of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices to "Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy";

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[a] A/51/308.

[b] TD/RBP/CONF.4/14.

3. Requests the Trade and Development Board to provide for meetings of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy operating within the framework of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in accordance with paragraph 110 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development".